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Ryan W. Battle

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EXAMINER

SWEARINGEN, JEFFREY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2445

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DELIVERY MODE

03/25/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/594,332	Applicant(s) BATTLE ET AL.	
	Examiner Jeffrey R. Swearingen	Art Unit 2445	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-15,18-28,31-36 and 39-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-15,18-28,31-36, 39-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/26/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 1/26/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest providing a first cookie maintaining a list of affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following an authentication of the user. This information is not only stored in the cookie jar (column 16, line 15 – column 17, line 12), but is also transmitted in Web page format to the customer in column 16, lines 28-50.

4. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest as a result of selecting a single logout link, issuing by the browser a request for data from the affiliated servers based on the list maintained with the first cookie. The request for data from the affiliated servers is taught when the Web server requests logoff.

5. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest in response to the request for obtaining data issued by the browser, sending, by the affiliated servers, to

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the browser, cookie setting information and an image which is indicative of successful logout. "The cookiejar 1352 sends a logoff status to the Web server 13444, which returns the status to the client platform." Bladow, column 17, lines 45-49.

6. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest a request for a logout page. A logout transaction is sent to the Web server, which is a request for a logout page. Bladow, column 17, lines 41-45.

7. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest providing a link to an expire cookies page hosted on each affiliated server having a site visited by the user following the authentication, or calling by the browser, during rendering of the logout page by the browser, the link to the expire cookies page on each affiliated server. Bladow, column 17, lines 41-49 details the logout procedure with the cookie jar, which would be the status of the logoff, or the "link to an expire cookies page". Additionally, target application servers are connected to in column 18, lines 1-10.

8. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest sending cookie setting information from each affiliated server to the browser in response to receiving the call from the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies. "The cookiejar 1352 sends a logoff status to the Web server 13444, which returns the status to the client platform." Bladow, column 17, lines 45-49.

9. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest requesting a logout page via the browser, wherein a logout link to the logout page is contained on at least one

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site that the user has visited on an affiliated server following the authentication of the use. Bladow, column 17, lines 41-49 where the user visited the Web server.

10. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest providing a link to an expire cookies page hosted on each affiliated server having a site visited by the user following the authentication.

11. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest calling by the browser, during rendering of the logout page by the browser, the link to the expire cookies page on each affiliated server. Bladow, column 17, lines 41-49 where the user visited the Web server.

12. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest sending cookie setting information from each affiliated server to the browser in response to receiving the call from the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies. "The cookiejar 1352 sends a logoff status to the Web server 13444, which returns the status to the client platform." Bladow, column 17, lines 45-49.

13. Applicant argues that Bladow and Lu fail to teach or suggest receiving image tags from the authentication server with the logout page, each image tag causing the browser to fetch an image from a URL identified by the image tag during rendering of the logout page. Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein.

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14. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest in response to the image tags, issuing get image requests to the URLs identified by the image tags. Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein.

15. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest receiving cookie setting information and images at the browser from the affiliated domain servers hosting the URLs identified by the image tags in response to the get image requests, the cookie setting information clearing cookies identified by responses to the get image requests, wherein the clearing is carried out by changing settings of the cookies in accordance with the cookie setting information in the responses from the affiliated domain servers for inclusion in the logout page displayed by the browser. This is the logout of Bladow, column 17, lines 4—49.

16. Applicant argues that Bladow failed to teach or suggest completing rendering of the logout page by the browser by incorporating the images received from the affiliated servers in the rendered logout page. Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein. The logout information was a return of the logout status as taught in Bladow, column 17, lines 47-49.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claims 1, 6-15, 18-28, 31-36, and 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bladow et al. (US 6,115,040) in view of Lu (US 6,100,918).

19. In regard to claim 1, 7-8, Bladow disclosed:

Providing a first cookie to a browser on the computer system being used by the user, the first cookie maintaining a list of affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following an authentication of the user; column 17, lines 42-49

Receiving one or more second cookies at the browser as the user visits sites on the affiliated servers following the authentication, the second cookies containing data associated with the corresponding affiliated servers; data is gathered by column 18, lines 39-47

selecting a single logout link via the browser, wherein the logout link is contained on any of the sites that the user has visited on the affiliated servers; column 17, lines 42-43

as a result of the selecting, issuing by the browser a request for obtaining data from the affiliated servers based on the list maintained with the first cookie;

in response to the request for data issued by the browser, sending, by the affiliated servers, to the browser, cookie setting information and an image which is indicative of successful logout; column 17, lines 42-49

in response to receiving the cookie setting information by the browser, clearing the second cookies from the browser by changing settings of the second cookies in accordance with the cookie setting information, wherein column 17, lines 42-49

the user is logged out of the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication by selection of the single logout link.

Column 17, lines 42-49

20. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

21. In regard to claim 6, Bladow disclosed:

The second cookies are expired by the browser in response to the cookie setting information to log the user out of the affiliated servers having the sites that the user visited. Column 17, lines 42-49

22. In regard to claim 9, Bladow disclosed:

The user is logged out of the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user by selection of the single logout link. Column 17, lines 42-49

23. In regard to claims 10, Bladow disclosed:

Receiving one or more cookies at a browser on the computer system as the user visits sites on the affiliated servers following an authentication of the user, wherein the one or more cookies contain data provided to the browser from corresponding one or more affiliated servers; data is gathered by column 18, lines 39-47

requesting a logout page via the browser, wherein a logout link to the logout page is contained on at least one site that the user has visited on an affiliated server following the authentication of the user; column 17, lines 42-49

providing a link to an expire cookies page hosted on each affiliated server having a site visited by the user following the authentication; sending cookie setting information from each affiliated server to the browser in response to receiving the call from the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies. column 17, lines 42-49

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24. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

25. In regard to claims 11, 15, Bladow disclosed:

One or more computer readable storage media coupled to the one or more processors, wherein the one or more processors are configured to execute modules including:

A first module providing a browser on the computer system that receives one or more cookies as the user visits sites on the affiliated servers following an authentication of the user, wherein the one or more cookies contain data provided to the browser from corresponding one or more affiliated servers, wherein the browser issues a request for a logout page, wherein a logout link to the logout page is contained on at least one site

on the affiliated servers that the user has visited following an authentication of the user by an authentication server; column 17, lines 42-49

And a second module that provides a link to an expire cookies page on each affiliated server that, when called by the browser, causes each affiliated server to clear cookies on the browser by sending cookie setting information to the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies, column 17, lines 42-49

wherein the cookies include data provided to the browser from an associated one of the affiliated servers, and column 17, lines 42-49 wherein the data contains at least one of:

a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server, and

a profile for the user. Column 16, lines 1-52

26. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out

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again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

27. In regard to claim 12, Bladow disclosed:

A visited sites cookie for maintaining a list of affiliated servers that a user has visited following the authentication. Column 16, lines 51-67

28. In regard to claim 13, Bladow disclosed:

the list of affiliated servers is used to identify the link to each expire cookies page on each affiliated server. Column 17, lines 42-49

29. In regard to claim 14, Bladow disclosed:

the request for a logout page causes the logout page to be rendered by the user's browser, the logout page directing the user's browser to the expire cookies page on each affiliated server. column 17, lines 42-49

30. In regard to claim 18, Bladow disclosed:

Receiving one or more cookies at the browser as a user visits sites on the affiliated servers following an authentication of the user by an authentication server, wherein the one or more cookies contain data provided to the browser from the authentication server; data is gathered by column 18, lines 39-47

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requesting a logout page from the authentication server by selecting a logout link, wherein the logout link is on at least one site on the affiliated domain servers that a user of the browser has visited following the authentication; column 17, lines 42-49

receiving image tags from the authentication server with the logout page, each image tag causing the browser to fetch an image from a URL identified by the image tag during rendering of the logout page; column 17, lines 42-49

in response to the image tags, issuing get image requests to the URLs identified by the image tags; column 17, lines 42-49

receiving cookie setting information and images at the browser from the affiliated domain servers hosting the URLs identified by the image tags in response to the get image requests, the cookie setting information clearing cookies identified by responses to the get image requests, wherein the clearing is carried out by changing settings of the cookies in accordance with the cookie setting information; and column 17, lines 42-49

rendering the images received with the cookie setting information in the responses from the affiliated domain server for inclusion in the logout page displayed by the browser. column 17, lines 42-49

31. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the

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ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

32. In regard to claim 19, Bladow disclosed:

*the image comprises an image of a checkmark for indicating successful
logout from a corresponding one of the affiliated servers. column 17, lines
42-49*

33. In regard to claim 20, Bladow disclosed:

*the image tags ensures that the image will not be retrieved from cache.
column 17, lines 42-49*

34. In regard to claim 21, Bladow disclosed:

the image tag includes a query. column 17, lines 42-49

35. In regard to claim 22, Bladow disclosed:

*the affiliated domain servers logged into are identified in a visited sites
data structure. column 17, lines 42-49*

36. In regard to claim 23, Bladow disclosed:

the data structure comprises a visited sites cookie provided to the browser by the authentication server. column 17, lines 42-49

37. In regard to claim 24, Bladow disclosed:

Receiving one or more cookies at a browser on the computer system as the user visits sites on the affiliated servers following an authentication of the user, the cookies containing data provided to the browser from an authentication server; data is gathered by column 18, lines 39-47

requesting a logout page, wherein a logout link to the logout page is on at least one site on the affiliated servers that the user has visited following an authentication of the user; column 17, lines 42-49

providing a link to an expire cookies page hosted on each affiliated server, said link being in the form of an image tag included in the logout page;

Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein.

calling each link by the browser in response to encountering the image tags in the logout page; Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein.

In response to the calling of each link, sending cookie setting information with an image sent to the browser by each affiliated server having a site that the user has visited following the authentication to clear cookies on the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies. column 17, lines 42-49

38. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

39. In regard to claim 25, Bladow disclosed:

a data structure of a visited site is maintained identifying the affiliated servers that are visited by the user following the authentication. column 17, lines 42-49

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40. In regard to claim 26, Bladow disclosed:

The data structure is a visited sites cookie provided to the browser by the authentication server. column 17, lines 42-49

41. In regard to claim 27, Bladow disclosed:

the logout link is provided on one or more of the multiple servers logged into through the affiliated servers, one of the affiliated servers, and the authentication server. column 17, lines 42-49

42. In regard to claim 28, Bladow disclosed:

the cookies comprise user personal information. Column 16, lines 1-52

43. In regard to claim 31, Bladow disclosed:

obtaining a visited sites data file which identifies each affiliated server having a site visited following an authentication of the user; column 17, lines 42-49

generating a plurality of image tags based on the visited sites data file, each image tag corresponding to one of the affiliated servers; column 17, lines 42-49

providing a URL in each image tag that causes an affiliated server associated with the image tag to clear cookies from the browser by sending cookie setting information for changing settings of the cookies to cause the cookies to be deleted by the browser, the cookie setting information being sent to the browser with an image sent to the browser by the corresponding affiliated server in response to receipt of an image

fetch request sent by the browser when the browser encounters the image tag, column 17, lines 42-49

wherein the cookies deleted include data provided to the browser from an associated one of the affiliated servers, and

generating the logout page by the browser by including the images received by the browser from the affiliated servers in the logout page.

Column 16, lines 1-52

44. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

45. In regard to claim 32, Bladow disclosed:

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each image tag contains a query string parameter causing the browser to fetch an image from the affiliated server corresponding to the image tag as a separate image fetching transaction. column 17, lines 42-49

46. In regard to claim 33, Bladow disclosed:

Wherein the request for data from the affiliated servers is issued by the browser during rendering of a logout page on the browser, wherein the logout page is received by the browser as a result of selecting the logout link. Column 16, lines 1-52

47. In regard to claims 34-36 and 39-40, Bladow disclosed:

*the data contains at least one of:
a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,
a profile for the user. Column 16, lines 1-52*

48. In regard to claim 41, Bladow disclosed:

*Hosting by each affiliated server a URL used for retiring cookies during logging out of the user; column 17, lines 41-49; column 16, lines 1-52
Directing the request for data issued by the browser to the URL for retiring cookies for each affiliated server having a site that the user has visited following the authentication; and column 17, lines 41-49; column 16, lines 1-52*

Sending, by the affiliated servers receiving the request, the image and a set cookie header including the cookie setting information for changing the

settings of the second cookies for clearing the second cookies. column 17, lines 41-49; column 16, lines 1-52

49. In regard to claim 42, Bladow disclosed:

Authenticating a user to visit sites on the affiliated servers by an authentication server associated with the affiliated servers; column 17, lines 41-49

Providing a first cookie to a browser being used by the user, the first cookie for maintaining a list of affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication of the user, wherein as the user visits sites on the affiliated servers following the authentication, second cookies containing data associated with the corresponding affiliated servers are stored by the browser; column 17, lines 41-49

Selecting, by the user via the browser, a single logout link, wherein the logout link is contained on any site that the user has visited on the affiliated servers or the authentication server following the authentication; column 17, lines 41-49

Receiving the selection of the logout link at the authentication server; column 17, lines 41-49

Generating a plurality of image tags based on the first cookie maintaining the list of sites visited following the authentication, each image tag corresponding to one of the affiliated servers; Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web

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page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein.

Providing the image tags in a logout page to be rendered by the browser;

Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein.

Rendering a logout page on the browser of the user; in response to encountering the image tags in the logout page by the browser, generating a plurality of image requests by the browser during rendering of the logout page based on the list of affiliated servers maintained by the first cookie, each image request corresponding to one of the affiliated servers listed in the list of affiliated servers; column 17, lines 41-49

Sending the image requests by the browser to URLs hosted by the corresponding affiliated servers, wherein each URL is for an expire cookies page on each affiliated server that, when called by the browser, causes each affiliated server to clear cookies on the browser by sending cookie setting information and an image to the browser; Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the

transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein.

In response to sending the image requests, receiving at the browser from each affiliated server receiving the image request, an image identified by the image request and cookie setting information; changing settings of the second cookies in response to the cookie setting information to cause the second cookies to be expired by the browser, wherein expiration of the second cookies causes the user to be logged out of the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication; column 17, lines 41-49

Completing rendering of the logout page by the browser by incorporating the images received from the affiliated servers in the rendered logout page. column 17, lines 41-49; column 16, lines 1-52 Bladow taught a graphical user interface, and Lu taught sending a logout confirmation from a web page upon logout. These two references in combination teach the transmission of image data, which is the equivalent of the image tag limitations herein.

50. Bladow failed to disclose the use of an image to verify that logout had been completed. Bladow was a graphical user interface. See Bladow, Title. Lu disclosed the ability to send a confirmation from a service provider upon logout from a web page to a pager. Lu, column 3, lines 21-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the logout confirmation of Lu with the Bladow

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invention in order to let the user know they had been logged out of a web page, thus improving security if the user had not logged out successfully so the user could log out again. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to send this logout confirmation to Bladow in the form of an image or image tag, since Bladow was a graphical user interface and was designed to display information to the user in the form of graphics and images.

Conclusion

51. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

52. Howard et al. US 6,678,731

53. Howard et al. US 6,584,505

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey R. Swearingen whose telephone number is (571)272-3921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Donaghue can be reached on 571-272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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